



FACT SHEET

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U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

World War I Livens drum

During World War I, the U.S. Army field-tested and used several types of munitions in training exercises. One of these munitions, the World War I Livens drum, most commonly contained the chemicals phosgene (choking agent) and chloropicrin (tear agent) and could also be used with an incendiary (flammable) or explosive fill. The Livens drum, a short-range munition, became obsolete with the production of many long-range World War II munitions such as the 155 mm projectile.

During World War I, the Livens drum was produced at Army facilities such as Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, and at



World War I Livens drum model

the former Camp American University, Washington, D.C. They periodically become unearthed during environmental remediation or construction activities on active or former military installations.



World War I Livens drum

For more information,
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